cases by a court presided over by a lady magistrate, investigation of rape case of a victim less then 18 years of age by women police officers and in the presence of parents and/or relatives, wider recruitment of women in police forces setting up of Special Women Courts in each district, appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers etc.

Killings of BSF Jawans by Bangladesh Rifles

351. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the actual number of BSF Jawans killed by Bangladesh Rifles at the Border area recently;

(b) what are the reasons behind these killings;

(c) what security measures are being taken by Government to avoid such incidents in future; and

(d) what is the outcome of dialogue between heads of India and Bangladesh Governments to avoid such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHR I. D. SWAMI): (a) 16 Border Security Force personnel were killed by the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR);

(b) The BDR forces resorted to unwarranted and unprovoked intrusion into the village of Pyrdiwah in the East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya along the India-Bangladesh border on the intervening night of April 15-16, 2001. Following the unilateral action of the BDR forces to disturb the *status quo*, the BSF troops commenced intensive patrolling along India—Bangladesh border. One such BSF patrol from the BOP Mankachar went missing on April 18, 2001. The BDR forces brutally killed 16 BSF personnel.

(c) The BSF have been instructed to remain in a position of high alert along the India-Bangladesh border.

(d) Prime Minister of India conveyed to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh India's deep sense of hurt and anguish over the inhuman treatment meted out to our BSF personnel. Prime Minister of

Bangladesh had confirmed that a full investigation would be carried out into all aspects of the incidents including the mutilation of the bodies of the BSF personnel.

Visit of Home Minister to Germany

352. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has recently paid a visit to Germany and held discussions on security issues;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held and outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Germany have decided to extend help to India in security issues; and

(d) if so, the details of terms and conditions fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHR I. D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) The Home Minister recently paid an official visit to Germany from 24.6.2001 to 27.6.2001. He held discussions with his counterparts on internal security issues and other matters of mutual interest. An Extradition Treaty between the Republic of India and the Federal Republic of Germany was signed on 27.6.2001 by the Home Minister on behalf of the Republic of India and Dr. Herta Daeubler-Gmelin, Federal Minister of Justice and Dr. Gunter Pleuger, State Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of Germany.

Suspension of Border Fencing along Indo-Pak Border

353. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have suspended plans to fence the international boundary with Pakistan in Jammu region in the recent past as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 14th May, 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Pakistani forces have been trying to put hurdles in the fencing work;

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof; and